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A REVIEW OF THE GIANT ANTPITTA *GRALLARIA*
GIGANTEA.

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The Giant Antpitta *Grallaria gigantea* Lawrence has been known as one of the rare birds of Ecuador, as comparatively few specimens have come to museums. Recent receipt of one from Dr. F. Carlos Lehmann V, taken in southern Colombia, has led to comparisons with the type in Washington and with a small series in New York through which it appears that the material available divides readily into three subspecies of which two are new to science. The details of my studies are summarized in the following review. Thanks are due to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History for use of specimens in their collections.

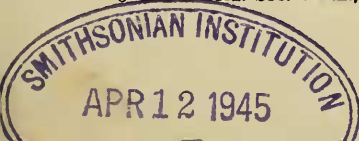
Grallaria gigantea gigantea Lawrence.

Grallaria gigantea Lawrence, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 8, June, 1866, p. 345 ("Ecuador").

The specimen that served as Lawrence's type, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 35,101, came to Baird with a small lot of skins from John Akhurst, a dealer in natural history material of Brooklyn with a letter dated November 25, 1864. It has only Ecuador as a locality and no other data. However, it seems probable that it came from the eastern slope of the Andes as the other skins received with it include *Gymnoderus foetidus* and *Archiplanus leucoramphus leucoramphus*, species found on the eastern slope that have not yet been recorded from western Ecuador. There is also one skin of *Grallaria rufula* which is darker above than the average, thus suggesting the form described as *Grallaria rufula saturata* by Domaniewski and Stolzmann from San Rafael on Volcán Tunguragua, on the eastern slope above the Río Pastaza, a race, however, that is not currently recognized.

The type *Grallaria gigantea* remained unique for years since Sclater¹

¹ Ibis, 1877, pp. 439-440.



had only this one bird available in his review of the genus in 1877. For a time the bird was mounted but was subsequently made into a skin. It is in excellent condition today with no indication of fading from exposure to light, since the reddish brown of the sides of the neck, where fully exposed, is even darker than that of the sides beneath the protection of the wings. The bird is fully adult, having no indication of the rufescent and black tips and bars found on back, wing coverts and rump in many individuals that seem to mark the plumage of the first year.

This specimen differs from all others seen, so that the characters of the typical form may be summarized as follows:

Below paler, the center of the breast and the abdomen being much lighter, becoming ivory yellow along the median line; above browner, back, wings and tail being bister; forehead and loreal space duller brown; brown area of pileum more definitely delimited posteriorly, and extending farther back past middle; under wing coverts heavily barred and spotted with fuscous; flanks much more heavily barred.

Measurements.—Type, sex not known, wing 142.2, tail 54.3, culmen from base 39.4, tarsus 69.8 mm.

Range.—Probably in the upper Lower Tropical and lower Upper Tropical Zones in eastern Ecuador.

Remarks.—The only other specimen recorded from the supposed range is a male taken by Dr. E. Festa at Pun on the Río Chingual, below Tulcán, a locality well down on the eastern slope.² The authors' remarks say nothing of the colors.

Grallaria gigantea hylodroma subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Grallaria gigantea gigantea* Lawrence, but much more deeply rufescent below, barring on the lower surface less heavy, being especially reduced, in some nearly absent, on the flanks; more olive above on back, wings, and tail; forehead and loreal area much brighter, more rufescent; primaries and secondaries margined heavily with russet.

Description.—Type, American Museum of Natural History, male adult, No. 124,426 from Gualea, 6000 feet elevation, Province of Pichincha, Ecuador, June 14, 1913, collected by Wm. B. Richardson. Forehead and loreal area between tawny and russet; crown and hindneck deep mouse gray, washed anteriorly with bone brown; feathers above and behind eye narrowly barred with russet, forming part of an indistinct ring; rest of dorsal surface olive brown; wing coverts with a slight margin of russet, the inner greater coverts with a narrow subterminal bar of dull black and a narrow tip of russet; outer webs of primaries russet, merging to tawny on the free margin; outer webs of secondaries with a narrow margin of tawny; back, scapulars and rump with a few feathers tipped with russet crossbarred narrowly with one or two narrow bands of dull black; rectrices very narrowly tipped with russet; sides of head, sides of

² See Salvadori and Festa, Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. Comp. Roy. Univ. Torino, vol. 15, no. 362, Nov. 17, 1899, p. 33.

neck, upper breast, sides and flanks amber brown, becoming tawny on the throat, middle of the breast, abdomen and under tail coverts, the whole narrowly barred with sooty black, the barring heaviest on breast, becoming almost obsolete on flanks; center of throat of warm buff, the anterior feathers white basally, the whole forming an indistinct longitudinal line; chin russet; under wing coverts russet, with a few small, scattered spots of sooty black. Maxilla natal brown, becoming fuscous black on culmen; mandible honey yellow; tarsus and toes benzo brown (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Four males, wing 144.2–152.6 (148.3), tail 54.5–61.8 (57.0), culmen from base 38.7–40 (39.4), tarsus 66.3–70.6 (69.7)³ mm.

Female, 1 specimen, wing 147.3, tail 61.3, culmen from base 39 mm. (tarsus broken).

Type, male, wing 152.6, tail 61.8, culmen from base 38.7, tarsus 70.6 mm.

Range.—Recorded from Gualea, Pachijal and Cerro Castillo; probably confined to the western slope of the Andes of Ecuador in the Upper Tropical and upper Lower Tropical Zone.

Remarks.—The six specimens of this bird examined are so uniform in their differences from the type of *gigantea* as to leave no question concerning their distinctness in the characters outlined above. Except as noted under *Grallaria gigantea gigantea* published records of the Giant Antpitta appear to pertain mainly to the present subspecies. Menegaux⁴ listed a male taken by Dr. Rivet at Pachijal on the western slope, his excellent plate showing a bird that agrees in every way with the series here under discussion. Dubois⁵ records the species only from "Ecuador." his plate supposedly being taken from the specimen in the Museum in Brussels, which, according to Sclater⁶ was the second one known. Dubois' figure shows a bird that is evidently immature as shown by the rufescent and black bars on the wing, back and rump. It agrees with *hylodroma* in the deep rufescent color of the ventral surface, but differs from any specimen seen in the restriction of the black barring on the under surface.

Grallaria gigantea lehmanni subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Grallaria gigantea gigantea* but barring on the central area of the lower surface definitely heavier; dorsal surface olive brown.

Description.—Type, U. S. National Museum No. 376,732, sex not marked, from San Marcos, elevation 3000 m., Moscopán, Cauca, Colombia, collected November 7, 1941 by Dr. F. C. Lehmann V. Forehead tawny basally, with tips of olive-brown, becoming olive brown that extends back over pileum past posterior angle of eyes; back of pileum and upper hindneck rather dull neutral gray; lower hindneck, back, wings

³ 3 specimens.

⁴ Miss. Serv. Geogr. Armee Mes. Arc. Merid. Equat., pt. 9, 1911, pp. B 36–37, pl. 3.

⁵ Syn. Av., pt. 1, 1900, p. 171, pl. 4, fig. 1.

⁶ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. 15, 1890, p. 312.

and tail olive brown; part of wing coverts, and a few feathers on lower back tipped with tawny and barred subterminally with dull black; upper tail coverts tipped also with tawny, with subterminal barring dark to deep neutral gray; primaries edged narrowly externally with cinnamon-brown, this changing on the outermost to a narrow outer margin of ochraceous-tawny; lores tawny; rictal bristles black; sides of head and neck tawny, barred with dull black; center of throat and upper foreneck ivory yellow, barred with black; chin, foreneck (except for ivory yellow area), upper breast, sides and flanks ochraceous-tawny, heavily barred with black; center of breast and abdomen light ochraceous-buff heavily barred with black; under tail coverts ochraceous-tawny without bars or spots; under wing coverts tawny to ochraceous-tawny heavily barred and spotted with black. Maxilla dusky neutral gray; mandible benzo brown; tarsus benzo brown; toes fuscous (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Type, sex not known, wing 154.1, tail 60.7, culmen from base 38, tarsus 73 mm.

Range.—Known only from San Marcos, 3000 meters elevation, and Tijeras, 2300 meters, Moscopán, Cordillera Central, Cauca, southern Colombia.

Remarks.—From *Grallaria g. hylodroma* the type of this race differs in being decidedly less rufescent on the lower surface, with the dark bars much heavier, these being heavy and distinct on the flanks where they are weak or absent in the west Ecuadorian birds. The under wing coverts are heavily barred and spotted with black as in typical *gigantea*. The series of *hylodroma* is so uniform in maintaining these differences that I do not hesitate to describe *lehmanni*, even though only a single specimen is available. Dr. Lehmann writes me that in the Museo de Historia, Natural of the Universidad del Cauca, in Popayan there is a female taken March 8, 1944, at Tijeras in the same area as that where the type was obtained but at the slightly lower elevation of 2300 meters.

In one way *G. g. lehmanni* seems to indicate variation or change in coloration in the direction of *Grallaria excelsa excelsa* Berlepsch from the Mérida region in western Venezuela. The two species *gigantea* and *excelsa* are similar in bulk and in length of wing, *excelsa* differing in having the bill, tarsus and foot much more slender. These differences to date are definite but it is possible that the two may intergrade in the intervening area from which no antpitta of this style is yet known.

This new form is named for the collector Dr. F. Carlos Lehmann V., in recognition of his studies on the ornithology of Colombia.